



THE DEADLY DUO™

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A Tenth
8
DEADLY
REVENGE

image comics presents:

THE **DEADLY** **DUO**™

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Writer • Storyteller

ANDY SMITH

Penciller

RANDY ELLIOTT

Inker

CHRIS ELIOPOULOS

Letterer

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STUDIO COLOUR GROUP

Film Output

JOSH EICHORN

Mad Scientist's Experiment Gone Hopelessly Awry

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HIGHBROW
ENTERTAINMENT

NO!
NO!!

IT
CAN'T
BE!





WHAT IS IT?

WHAT DID I SAY?

IT'S DECEMBER 1ST, 1994. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

MISS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW OR SOMETHING?

YES!

BY 20 YEARS!

THE WORLD ENDS IN 2019! JUST BEFORE IT EXPLODED I HAD A TIME MACHINE SEND ME TO 1974!

IT WAS AN OLD MACHINE-- SOME OF THE LIGHTS MUST HAVE BEEN OUT ON THE DIGITAL READOUT-- I WENT TO THE WRONG YEAR!

I'M A '70S FANATIC-- I KNOW 'EM LIKE A BOOK, THE FASHIONS, THE MUSIC...



THE SPORTS!

I HAD IT ALL PLANNED! I KNOW ALL THE SCORES FROM IMPORTANT GAMES. I WAS GOING TO MAKE A KILLING BETTING ON SPORTS SCORES!

THIS IS LIKE SOME KIND OF NIGHTMARE.



WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? CLIMB BACK IN YOUR MACHINE AND GO TO '74.

THAT'S JUST IT!

WHY NOT?

I CAN'T!



THE MACHINE ITSELF DOESN'T TRAVEL-- IT BEAMS THE TIME TRAVELLER BACK THROUGH TIME AND PICKS THEM UP AGAIN. SINCE THE WORLD WAS ENDING I JUST SENT MYSELF ONE WAY.

I'M STUCK HERE!

"IN THE FUTURE, THE WORLD SMELLS PRETTY BAD. THE WORLD'S BEEN BADLY MESSED UP-- CITIES ARE COVERED WITH BOMBS BECAUSE THE OZONE LAYER WAS DESTROYED.

"A HORRIBLE PLAGUE WIPED OUT A LOT OF PEOPLE.

"FRICTION BETWEEN US AND CALIFORNIA HAD ESCALATED.

"PROTECTIVE SUITS WERE MADE TO PROTECT US FROM RADIATION AND DISEASE.

"THE SUITS ARE SOLAR POWERED-- IT WAS ALWAYS POSSIBLE BUT ONLY MADE A REALITY AFTER EVERY OTHER CONTROLLABLE POWER SOURCE HAD BEEN DEPLETED.

"THE CORPS COULDN'T TAKE IN ANY CREDITS FOR THE SUN'S RAYS, IT ALL LOOKED PRETTY GOOD--FOR ABOUT SIX MONTHS. THEN A WORLDWIDE RECESSION HIT AND LIKE MOST OF THE REST-- I WAS OUT OF WORK.

"I WAS A FREAK FOR THE PAST! I DID ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING FROM THE '70S -- ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING.

"I THRIVED ON '70S FILMS AND MUSIC-- I WATCHED ENDLESS HOURS OF WHATEVER I COULD GET MY HANDS ON.

"AND PLANET BLOK HATED OUR GUTS.

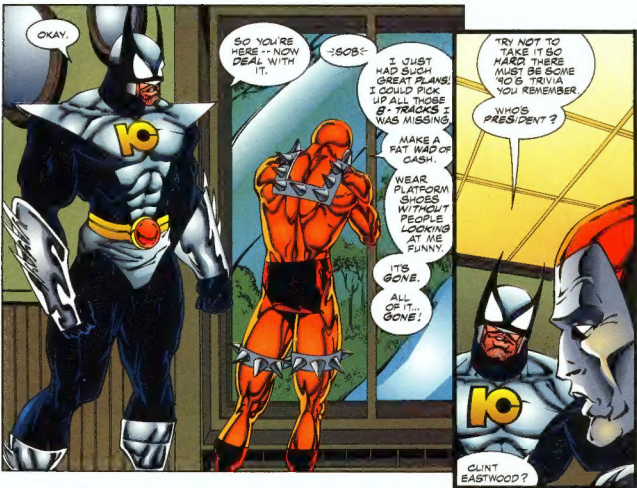
"THEN THE MOMENT WE ALL FEARED CAME-- THE BOMBS WERE ON THEIR WAY. I TURNED OFF 'HAPPY DAYS' AND RAN INTO THE OTHER ROOM.

SIT ON IT.

"THE TIME MACHINE WAS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND-- I'D NEVER DARED TO USE IT AS TIME TRAVEL HAD BEEN OUTLAWED.

"I SET THE TIME FOR DECEMBER 1, 1974.

"AND PRAYED."





NOT A HELL
OF A LOT,
COME TO THINK
OF IT.

SEE
WHAT I
MEAN?

DARN.



HEY, AT LEAST
THERE DOESN'T SEEM
TO BE ANY WEIRD
LANGUAGE BARRIER
YOU'LL HAVE TO
OVERCOME.

BIG
DEAL!

I'LL PROBABLY
HAVE TO GET
SOME STUPID
HAIRCUT TO
"FIT IN"!



SHEESH! IF THAT'S
YOUR BIGGEST CONCERN,
YOU'VE GOT NOTHING
TO WORRY ABOUT.

THE '90'S
ARE PARTICULARLY
DIVERSE FASHION
WISE.

HELL,
THERE'S EVEN
SOME FOOLS
TRYING TO
REVIVE THE
'70S.

REALLY??



TELL ME
MORE, TELL
ME MORE!

KNOCK
IT OFF.

YOU MAY HAPPEN TO
FIND THE '70S FASCINATING
BUT I DON'T HAPPEN
TO FEEL THE SAME.

THE '70S IS A PERIOD
WHERE FASHION, CLOTHES
AND MUSIC WERE AT AN
ALL TIME GROTESQUE,
BOTTOM LEVEL, TACKY,
BIZARRE LOW.



NO!

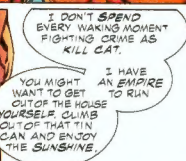
THERE'S A LARGE PORTION
OF AMERICANS TRYING
DESPERATELY TO LIVE DOWN
AN AWFUL PROM PICTURE
WITH A POLYESTER LEISURE
SUIT AND MUTTONCHOP
SIDEburns.



HMPH.

I THOUGHT
THEY LOOKED
COOL.

YOU'VE
BEEN IN THAT
TIN CAN SUIT
OF YOURS TOO
LONG.







COOL! I
CAN BREATHE
AND
EVERYTHING.

THE CLOTHES
ARE A BIT BIG
THOUGH.

YEAH, WELL.
THEY'RE WEARING
'EM THAT WAY
THESE DAYS.

CAN
I COME
ALONG?

NAH, I
GOTTA DO THIS
ALONE.

WHY DON'T
YOU CATCH UP
ON THE REAL
WORLD. I'LL BE
BACK LATER.

WE CAN GO
ON PATROL AGAIN
TONIGHT.

UH,
OKAY.



HERE'S A
SIGNAL DEVICE,
IF YOU GET INTO
TROUBLE CALL
ME.

GOTCHA.

I'LL KEEP MY
DADS IN THIS
BACKPACK IN CASE
I NEED THEM.

SWELL.

I'LL DROP
YOU OFF
DOWNTOWN.

REUNION
AT A DETROIT
LAB

AT
LAST!

BIO-TECH
LABORATORIES

I'VE FOUND A
WAY TO ACCESS
ANOTHER
DIMENSION!

NEW RESOURCES
WILL BE OPEN FOR US--
OTHER SOURCES OF
ENERGY THAT WE CAN
USE. THERE WILL NEVER
BE AN ENERGY SHORTAGE
AGAIN!

ALL OF MY
HARD WORK HAS
PAID OFF. THE
MOMENT OF TRUTH
IS AT HAND!

THIS MACHINE
ALLOWS US ACCESS
TO ANOTHER WORLD--
AS I'LL DEMON-
STRATE.

HUMANITY

GOSH

OOO

AHHH

SOON, WE'LL
GET OUR FIRST
GLIMPE
INTO ANOTHER
REALM.

OH MY
LORD!

BOOM!

GHAA-



HERE'S
SOME DUNG
FOR YOUR
FACE--EYE!

THE
ANNIHILATORS
ARE BACK!*

YUCK!
PTOO!

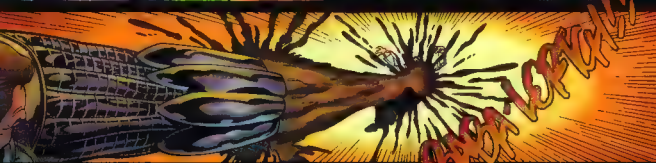
AND
WE MEAN
BUSINESS!
LET'S
KICK SOME
ASS!

*THEY VANISHED AFTER
BARBARIC DESTROYED
THEIR TELEPORTER IN THE
SAVAGE DRAGON #6.

WHERE
ARE WE?

UHP.
BIO-TECH
LABORATORIES
N DETROIT.

THAT'S MY
HOME TOWN
BABY!



EEEEUGH.
THEY'RE GONNA
KILL US ALL.

AAAH.



YOU...
BE SO...
LUCKY



GOOD...BE
BACK.

THAT'S
RIGHT,
BABY!

NOW WE
CAN TAKE
OVER THE
CITY...
OH-DEY!!





MMM



THIS BEATS PROTEIN PILLS ANY DAY!



WH-
OH.

NOW
THERE'S A
SENSATION I
HAVEN'T FELT
BEFORE



I THINK
I'D BETTER
HIT THE
CAN!



YOW!
STUFF IS
COMIN OUT
OF ME!!











YOU
GONNA EAT
THAT?

YOW!

OOOH, LOOK,
A BICYCLE.
HOW STRANGE
TO SEE ONE.

WHAT A
STRANGE TIME
I'VE TRAVELED
TO

IT'S HARD
TO BELIEVE
I'M REALLY
HERE.

IT'S LIKE
SOME KIND
OF DREAM...

HEY..

KILL
CAT!

WHERE'S
THE FIRE?

BAD
GUYS.

TOOK
OVER.

HUH?
HUH?

BIG BUN
RESTAURANT.

REALLY?
I WAS
JUST
THERE!

THOSE
WERE BAD
GUYS?

WHAT?



YOU WERE THERE?

YEP.

YOU SAW THEM?

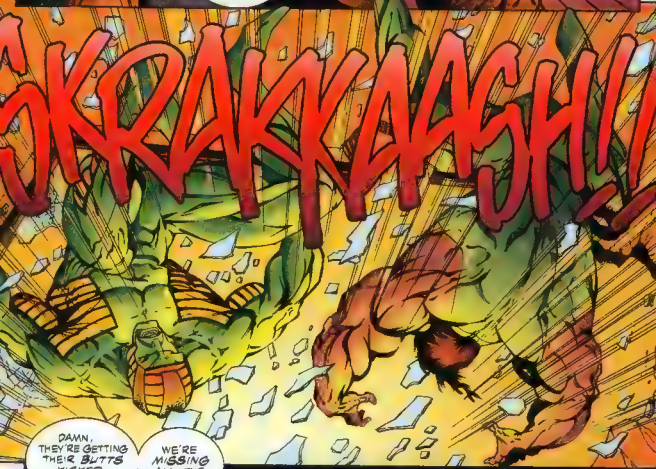
YEP.

YOU DIDN'T CALL ME?

NOPE

I THOUGHT THEY WERE NORMAL GUYS. I DON'T KNOW '90S FASHION-- YOU SAID IT WAS DIVERSE, I THOUGHT...

WHY YOU LITTLE...!



DAMN, THEY'RE GETTING THEIR BUTTS KICKED ALREADY!

WE'RE MISSING ALL THE ACTION!

GOS!



I'M GOING
AFTER THEM,
KID.

STAY
OUT OF MY
WAY.

OKAY,
OKAY.

LOOK
OUT!

SPAT!

WHOA!

AAK.

P'OO

UHH

I LL GET
HIM FOR YOU,
K LL CAT

NO... HE'S
MINE.

HAVE
IT YOUR
WAY

HE'S ALL
YOURS.



IT'D BE GREAT.
MY BRAINS, YOUR
BRAWN, KIDS...
UH... KIDS...HMM.

ANYWAY, IT
WOULD BE GREAT!
WHAT A TEAM!
WE'D BE
UNSEATABLE!

WE COULD
BE THE TERRIFIC
TRIO! THE
THRILLING THREE!
THE TEAM
SUPREME!

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK?

NAH.

WOW.

LOU
FERRIGNO
LOOKS A LOT
BIGGER IN
PERSON THAN
ON TV.

HEY, LEMME
OUTTA HERE,
HEY!



KITTY LETTERS

Please send all correspondence to: KITTY LETTERS, P.O. Box 20760, Oakland, Ca. 94620

Dear Erik,

The Deadly Duo #1 made for quite an interesting read. You achieved your intent to make an easily readable, easily followable storyline. Everything is straight-forward, with no twists and turns. It's just one big straight linear story. It also borders on self-parody, as the characters exhibit everything we consider bad about superhero comics these days - clichéd dialogue from Kill-Cat, mindless violence, incessant references to Batman.

The opening seven pages serve to link Kill-Cat to dart, in case we missed those issues of Freak Force, I guess. I hope Dart makes an appearance in here sometime. The full relationship between these two has never been satisfied, really. Kill-Cat's narration is suitably melodramatic, filled with terse phrases and one-word captions. I like Andy Smith's interpretation of the character with clearly defined cat-like eyes and pointed ears. The analogy to Batman is further explored in here, too, concluding with Kid Avenger's great punch line at the end.

Kid Avenger seems to be the perfect energetic foil/partner for Kill-Cat. He hasn't realized yet that he's out of his time element. The two characters play off of each other in quite the same way the Tick does with the Moth. One is strong and overbearing. The other is too eager and happy to be with his partner.

Andy Smith's art is very reminiscent of Bart Sears'. But his faults lie in the lack of backgrounds. He draws powerful figures and impressive fight scenes, but everything else suffers from lack of perspective. This might just be a matter of style for Andy, but it can be disconcerting at the same time for the reader.

Augie De Blicke Jr.
North Haledon, NJ
E-mail:
ADEBLUEC@drew.drew.edu

Augie De Blicke Jr., letterhack, can be seen in the letters column of The Savage Dragon and Freak Force, among others. He is a Highbrow Zombie, and follows Erik Larsen around from title to title like a rabid dog. He doesn't enjoy talking about himself in the third person, so he doesn't.

I'm not all that familiar with the Tick, Augie (although I'm aware that it's a TV show now). I hope that the Deadly Duo being similar is a good thing. Obviously, the characters will get more sharply defined personalities as the series of series progresses.

There aren't any plans for Dart to appear next issue but she's sure to appear in the pages of the Deadly Duo at some point.

Dear Erik,

So this is supposed to be that initially three-issue, now four-issue mini-series with which neither Peter David nor John Byrne had anything to do with, right? yet, from cover to cover, Deadly Duo #1 has nevertheless succeeded in giving its readers some

not too serious and not too complicated fun and action of the battling kind. Although multiple levels of complexity and a myriad of shadowy subplots surely have proven to make for some very entertaining and intriguing reading, I'm glad you've chosen to keep those ingredients out of this book, giving everybody a fun comic, as you so aptly have named it.

Basically, nothing much has happened in this premiere issue, and I'm under the impression that's just what you intended. For starters, we go re-introduced to Kill-Cat, whom the true Highbrow addicts already knew from the pages of Freak Force. Throw in a weird antagonist with goofy powers, such as Cement Man, mix it a little with a super powered fella from the future, who's calling himself Kid Avenger, shake it some more but don't stir, and voila—an instant fun comic. And hey, it actually works! Being a fan of complex stories and a mixture of fantasy, reality and mystery, my monthly doses of comics include pretty complicated books such as Sandman and Black Orchid and, if you will, Bone and Savage Dragon, I must admit reading such a straightforward tale as presented in this very issue is a welcome change of pace.

So next issue, WildC.A.T.s' Maul will pay our Deadly Duo a visit? That actually sounds like a plan to me, as I found your interpretation of Maul during the Image X Month not particularly satisfying. Maybe, within the boundaries of your own book, you'll have more luck with the big guy!

Olav Beemer
Zeist, The Netherlands

Yeah, and now it's three issues again. After talking me into adding an issue, Andy went and over-committed himself on other projects to the point where he couldn't do the fourth issue of Deadly Duo—sigh. It was intended to run three issues in the first place so the story will make perfect sense and there's another Deadly Duo series in the works.

As for Maul—how did you like his appearance here?

Dear Kitty Letters,
Re: Issue #1

Introduction: Hi. For all of those out there who don't know me (or have never opened a Highbrow book), I am "MAC". I faithfully review all of the current Highbrow titles each and every month. Hold the applause for the end, please!

Inside (Art): Energetic. Active. Dynamic. Spry. Animated. Zealous. Bold. Peppy. Good (that wasn't a very good adjective). Well, I guess you could say "I liked it,"; but that would be a gigantic understatement. I could see that Mr. Smith payed extra special attention to anatomy and a thick, nonsense line. Let's not forget, though, Mr. Elliott. His inking helped to make this book a winner. I could just about read it without the words. Congrats.

KITTY LETTERS

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Inside (Story): Mr. Larsen...First we had S. Dragon, which was gritty. Then, SuperPatriot, which was even more gritty. Suddenly, from out of nowhere, comes Freak Force and Vanguard, which were "fun" books. Now, we find the Deadly Duo, which is the pinnacle of today's "fun" books. The last line was priceless. Magnificent.

Overall: 10 out of 10. Perfect.

Conclusion: Kill-Cat. He doesn't look like Batman or Shadow Hawk. He looks like the lesser known villain, Batroc the Leaper. Well?!? Good luck and keep it coming!

MAC
Wyckoff, NJ

Actually, Mac, Kill-Cat wore purple pants in his original color scheme and looked even more like Batroc! Still, Batroc wasn't the inspiration for Kill-Cat (and you'd never guess who was).

Dear Deadly Ones,

Absolutely, completely, totally, and without a doubt; this is one of the BEST series (mini-that is) you've ever done guys. It equals the original Savage Dragon and SuperPatriot mini-series' in coolness, and excels far beyond them in the fun factor. The heroes and villains are classic. And the fact that Andy Smith produces some of the slickest, most nicely done artwork I've seen in a while doesn't hurt. I laughed on almost every page, from Kill-Cat's fantasy, to Kid Avenger's 70s-speak to the menace of Cement Man (no wimpy sand here!).

Out of the entire issue, only two things jarred. Firstly, the dream sequence was way too obvious. The instant Dart smiled as she swooped down to save Kill Cat's rear, the proverbial "jig" was up. If you had her simply join him in fighting, and only afterwards look into his slitted eyes and melt, then the revelation would've been more effective. The second off-thing was that while Kid Avenger's constant spouting of ludicrously cliched phrases was funny for an issue, it could tire fast. Be careful, huh?

Hey! It's time for some official annoying Highbrow-fanboy questions:

1. Does the future Kid Avenger come from have anything to do with: A. the future Prophet came from; B. the future Supreme's children, the Starguard, came from; C. the future the "old" Wildstar came from, or D. the future Void came from? (Take your pick!)
2. How come KC's claws don't rip through his gloves?
3. Was he born with pointy-ears, slitted eyes, and claws (i.e. a mutant/nu-gene character)?
4. Do Kid Avenger's thigh spikes serve any other purpose than making one wonder at how

carefully he must place his legs?

5. About Kill Cat's Dart fixation: while I realize any red-blooded, healthy man coming into contact with her (should I rephrase that?) >ahem< meeting her might be inspired to a little dreaming, but dreaming after his last reception with her is a bit pathetic. Doesn't he realize he lives in the Image Universe? A place where attractive women with paranormal abilities who fight crime are scattered in abundance over the landscape? Let him find another love interest (leaving Dart to be MINE, ALL MINE...>ack<, uh, pay no attention to that last part Erik).
6. Maul in issue #2, Roman in issue #3, and while I don't know if anyone's planned for issue four, would it be possible for you guys to convince Keith Giffen to let the Butt-stompin', no holdin' back TRENCHER meet the Deadly Duo?
7. If not Trencher, how 'bout a Shrew team-up in the future? That poor fellow could use some fun.
8. "Caacaaannn - yooouuu - feeelll - theee - lllloooooove - toooonnnghht?"
That's all for this month guys. Keep up the sweet work. And 'til I am group hugged by Kid Avenger, Horridus, and Hellrazor, I'll keep buying the darn thing!

John Ellis
Virginia Beach, VA

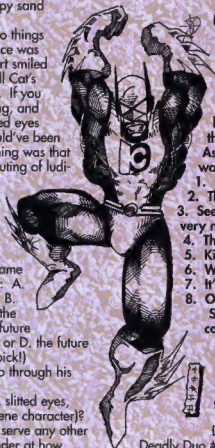
P.S. - At the rate you're going Erik, will you publish an entire issue of letter columns?!?

I'm glad you liked it DD #1, John. Dart was the other hero in town for years and, as is typical for Kill-Cat, he read a lot more into their relationship than there was. He fancies himself a ladies man although you'd be hard pressed to find many ladies who agree with him on that. As you can see from this issue the Kid is a big '70s fan. As time progresses he'll adjust to the way people talk now.

1. None of the above.
2. They're as tough as he is!
3. See his awe-inspiring origin in our very next issue!
4. They look bitchin'.
5. Kill-Cat lives in a world all his own.
6. We'll get right on it.
7. It's a possibility.
8. Oh yes.

Sometimes writing the letters columns is as much fun as doing the comics (and it's nice to get readers' feedback). If I thought I could get away with publishing an entire issue of letters columns I just might give it a shot...

Dear Erik & Co.,
Deadly Duo #1 was a grand slam as far as I'm



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concerned! The "roll call" on the splash page was hysterical; the perfect point to begin this odyssey. I wondered if you could resist a gratuitous guest-shot from Dragon, Vanguard, and/or Freak Force. Of course, much to my delight, you did. Dart's "appearance" was well done. I found a great deal of entertainment in Kill-Cat waking up after having a slightly obsessive dream about Dart. (Hey, who hasn't?)

CEMENT MAN RULES!!! Give him his own ongoing! I'm probably way off (as usual), but I saw him as a send-up of one of my all-time favorite characters, Marvel's Sandman. I know, Erik, I know. Marvel's Sandman sucks. It seemed too easy to have the fight end with Kid Avenger just blasting of CM's head. **DO OVER!!!!**

My sole complaint is the ho-hum logo for DD. You've gotta admit that it's pretty distracting from the beautiful cover art. Speaking of art, the work of Andy 'n' Randy went together as well as their names do. With Chris and the color team(s) providing the proverbial icing on the cake, the result is an extremely slick-looking streamlined book. Good show.

Fanboy stupid question time:

1. What's Kill-Cat's real name?
2. Does Kill-Cat have any powers?
3. Will we see Kill-Cat's dream come true (wink, wink)?
4. Will we see more of Cement Man? I'd hate it if he was a one-shot throwaway. Again, great character!
5. How come Kill-Cat didn't impale his arm on Kid Avenger's spikes on the second-to-last panel in the book?

Anyway, Erik, throughout most of my comic-collecting life, I have been under the mistaken assumption that writers should write, artists should draw, and ne'er the twain shall meet (or something like that). With DD #1 and Freak Force #10 (free plug), you have indisputably proven that my entire life has been a superficial, perverse lie. **THANKS A LOT, LARSEN!!!!** Oh, and see you in 30.

Until someone tells Kill-Cat that he's wearing his underwear on the wrong side, all hail Highbrow!

Harry Simon
Las Vegas, NV

1. Alan Williamson.
2. Yes. See next issue.
3. Probably not.
4. He'll be back eventually.
5. Kill-Cat's arms are armored.

Dear Mr. Larsen:

Some fast thoughts on the first issue of The Deadly Duo.

Having been suitably impressed by Kill-Cat's debut in the pages of Freak Force a few months ago, the prospect of a mini-series built around him was automatically appealing. I confess to being a bit less impressed with Kid Avenger, but I'm hoping

he'll grow on me given a bit more time. At least, he acquitted himself well here, for someone who drops into the action without having a clue what's going on!

In months to come, I'm looking forward to finding out more about both Kill-Cat and Kid Avenger as characters. I hope you have plans to let Dart guest-star, as the one-sided romantic tension between her and Kill-Cat is a riot!

I'm also particularly looking forward to finding out more about Kid Avenger's past...or is it future? Namely, why did he come to our century in the first place? What is he looking for that he can't find in his own era?

As for the evil of Cement Man, I liked watching our pair of heroes "mix it up" with him! I especially liked the way in which Kid Avenger defeated him...that's certainly a wrinkle that Marvel never thought of with their Sandman character!

So, in case I haven't mentioned it yet, I expect to be here for all four issues of The Deadly Duo! I trust you won't let me down on the quality!

David Peattie
Concord, CA

Me too. As you've no doubt heard by now, the fourth issue has been shelved. The story intended for that issue will be part of our next Deadly Duo mini-series. That's right, folks—there will be *at least one more mini-series* and quite possibly an ongoing title!

This very issue should have shed some light on the Kid Avenger, next month, it's Kill-Cat's turn. Dart will have to wait.

Dear Erik,

I gave Kill-Cat a second chance and bought Deadly Duo #1 and although I still don't think his first appearance in Freak Force was that great an issue, I really enjoyed Deadly Duo #1 and I hope the whole series is as enjoyable as the first issue.

Chris Lett
Dayton, OH

You'll find out next issue.

Dear Erik,

Deadly Duo #1 was great! I loved the humor in it. I didn't expect it to be that funny. Just one comment: Make Deadly Duo an ongoing series, or else!

Matt Stromberg
Upper Darby, PA

I'll see what we can do.

—Erik Larsen

Next Issue: The hilarious hijinks continue! The startling secret origin of Kill-Cat revealed! Hookers from Atlantis! Plus, introducing the macabre menace of Gator and Maneater! Special Extreme guest star from the pages of Brigade: Roman! Highbrow Entertainment at its finest! Only from Image!